

cannot concern itself with the question as to whether or not it happens to contain any eggs.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE X.

Fig. 1. *Agelena labyrinthica* ♀, somewhat enlarged.

Fig. 2. The spinning of the small sheet against which the eggs are deposited.

Fig. 3. The spider in the act of oviposition.

Fig. 4. The egg-mass depending from the small sheet.

Fig. 5. The same covered in with a layer of silk.

Fig. 6. The outer case of the cocoon, still transparent, and showing the silk-covered egg-mass depending from its roof.

Fig. 7. General view, showing the hammock-like compartment containing the cocoon.

XIV.—Description of a new *Vole* from China.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

THE type of the following description was taken from the stomach of a snake (*Trimeresurus Jerdoni*, Günth.) obtained by Mr. A. E. Pratt in West Sze-chuen at the same time that he collected the fine new horseshoe bat (*Hipposiderus Pratti*) described in the June number of the 'Annals.' I propose to call it

Microtus chinensis, sp. n.

About the size of *M. ratticeps* or *M. rufocanus*, but the tail very considerably longer.

Fur very long both above and below.

General colour dark coppery brown, not rufous, so far as can be made out from a specimen in spirit; the bases of the hairs dark slaty blue-grey.

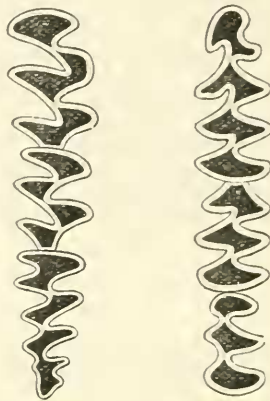
Ears rounded, their tips just projecting beyond the fur of the head. Pollex with a distinct nail. Sole with six distinct pads, the region behind the last pad hairy, the rest quite naked. Tail unusually long, more than three times the length of the hind foot, thinly haired, the scales plainly visible, dark brown above, very slightly paler below. $\text{Manimæ } 0-2=4$, a formula which, combined with the presence of six foot-pads, appears to be unknown in the genus*.

Skull similar to that of *M. (Evotomys) rufocanus*, and with the peculiar structure of the posterior palatal region characteristic of *Evotomys*†.

* Lataste, Ann. Mus. Genov. (2) iv. pp. 271-274 (1887).

† See Coues, Mon. N. Am. Rod. p. 133 (1877).

Teeth (see fig.) remarkable, like those of *M. melanogaster*, M.-Edw.*, and the members of the subgenus *Eotomys*, for the fact that in several cases dentine spaces are opposite to and



Molars of *Microtus chinensis*. The inner side of each tooth-row is to the right. Magnified 8 diameters.

communicate with one another, instead of being alternate and separated. Although the specimen is fully adult, there is no sign of the formation of roots to the teeth.

The following is the molar pattern, so far as simple numeration will express its characters:—

Upper	M ¹ , 4	spaces,	3	external	and	3	internal	angles.
"	M ² , 4	"	3	"	2	"	"	
"	M ³ , 5	"	4	"	5	"	"	
Lower	M ¹ , 7	"	4	"	5	"	"	
"	M ² , 3	"	3	"	3	"	"	
"	M ³ , 3	"	3	"	3	"	"	

In the present controversial state of our systematic knowledge of the Voles I am not prepared to say to which of the known species *M. chinensis* is most nearly related; but the number of its mammae and foot-pads and the presence of five prominent internal angles to *m*³ appear to distinguish it from all allied forms.

In some respects it seems to be annectant between *Eotomys* and the other Voles, the structure of its palate and some of its dental characters showing striking affinities to the former, far as its rootless teeth, fewer mammae, and different external form separate it from any of the known members of that group.

* Figured by Blanford, J. A. S. B. l. pl. ii. fig. A (1881).

Dimensions of the type, an adult female in alcohol, somewhat elongated by compression in the stomach of its original collector:—

Head and body 120 millim., tail 68, hind foot 21, ear (above crown) 12; heel to front of last foot-pad 9·3; length of last foot-pad 2·2; hairy part of sole 7.

Skull: basal length 26·5, tip of nasals to back of interparietal 27; greatest breadth 16; nasals, length 9·1, breadth 3·7; interorbital breadth 4; interparietal, length 4, breadth 8·3; diastema 8; length of upper molar series 6·9; anterior palatine foramina 6.

Hab. Kia-ting-fu, West Sze-chuen (*A. E. Pratt, Esq.*).

XV.—*Natural History Notes from H.M. Indian Marine Survey Steamer 'Investigator,' Commander R. F. Hoskyn, R.N., commanding.*—Series II., No. 1. *On the Results of Deep-sea Dredging during the Season 1890–91.* By J. WOOD-MASON, Superintendent of the Indian Museum, and Professor of Comparative Anatomy in the Medical College of Bengal, and A. ALCOCK, M.B., Surgeon I.M.S., Surgeon-Naturalist to the Survey.

[Continued from p. 34.]

Family **Macruridæ.**

MACRURUS, Bl.

Subgenus **CÆLORHYNCHUS, Giorna.**

24. *Macrurus quadricristatus*, sp. n.

B. 6. D. 11. A. circ. 90. P. 16. V. 7.

Head like that of *Trachyrhynchus* and much exceeding the rest of the trunk in all three dimensions; tail very low, compressed, and tapering.

The head is more than three times the rest of the trunk in length, and nearly one third the total. The depressed snout is exceedingly long and acutely triangular; its length, which is nearly half that of the head, is more than twice the major diameter of the large oval eye and twice the width of the interorbital space across the middle; six sevenths of its total